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NSW Regional Director – Chris Libreri

Message from the Regional Director – Newsletter highlights



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NSW flagship publication and Statistical Compendium



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NatStats 08 Conference

Website released



ABS Officer Outpostings - Available now

Collaboration and capacity building with on-hand expertise / technical and analytical skills



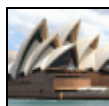
Is Life In Australia Getting Better?

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) Summary Indicators: out now!



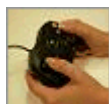
NSW Demography Update

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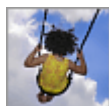
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Defining Sport and Exercise in Australia



ABS NSW Training Program

High-quality courses to help understand and use statistics



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ABS NSW Contacts

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MESSAGE FROM THE NSW REGIONAL DIRECTOR – Chris Libreri



Welcome to the June 2008 edition of Statistics News NSW.

As the new Regional Director for New South Wales, I look forward to leading the ABS NSW Office in delivering a high quality, objective and responsive statistical service.

Our overall aim will be to continue to provide the best set of statistics for the State. Our extensive national outputs, complemented by relevant local products and services are offered to assist and encourage informed decision making within the community and all levels of government.

I am particularly enthusiastic about advancing the recently signed **ABS and NSW Government Memorandum of Understanding** with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, to identify and address key statistical needs relating to the NSW State Plan and other current strategic initiatives, such as the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

By way of background, I joined the ABS in 1980. Prior to my arrival in NSW Office, I was appointed Regional Director of ABS Northern Territory, served as the Director of Service Industry Statistics, the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, ABS Business Frames, also Corporate and Client Services Branches - all located in ABS's Victorian Office. I have previously worked in Social Analysis, Public Finance Statistics, Population Survey Operations and the Central Marketing areas of the ABS, including a stint in ABS Central Office in Canberra.

This edition of Statistics News NSW includes information on **ABS Officer Outpostings, 2008 ABS Training Program**, the **NatStats Conference 08**, **Arts and Cultural Heritage Research Symposium** and more. I would also like to draw your attention to the soon to be released ABS publication **New South Wales in Focus** (cat. no. 1338.1) which provides extensive statistical information and analysis from a range of sources about the people, economy and environment of NSW.

Finally, the previous edition of this newsletter promised elaboration of the full impact on the 2008-09 ABS budget position. A full listing of affected surveys, statistical collections and publications can be found **here**.

**Statistics News NSW provides readers with new and relevant information about survey developments, user consultation, reviews, training, information sessions, major changes to the statistical program, State data and significant ABS releases.
Contact us here at ABS NSW.**

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BRINGING NSW INTO FOCUS

Almost one in three Australians or 6.9 million people live in NSW. Of these 6.9 million people, 2% are Indigenous, nearly 14% are aged 65 years or over, and 24% were born overseas. So what is life like for NSW's diverse population and how has it changed in the last 5 to 10 years?

New South Wales in Focus, 2008 (cat. no. 1338.1), due for release on 13 June, seeks to answer these questions by providing a snapshot of life in NSW and how it has changed over time. Drawing upon both ABS and non-ABS sources, NSW in Focus has twelve chapters presenting a rich array of social, economic and environmental data.

Chapters include Population, Family and Community, Health, Education and Training, Work, Household Economic Resources, Housing, Crime and Justice, Transport, Economic Activity and Environment. The final chapter then presents useful national comparisons for selected indicators.

A new feature in the 2008 edition is the inclusion of brief analytical chapter introductions, highlighting selected measures. Each chapter also features a summary table of selected indicators allowing users to track changes over time, and a list of data sources which are a helpful reference for further research.

NSW in Focus is available free from the ABS website. Users can download the entire publication as a PDF or can access individual datacubes using Excel. This compendium is an excellent resource for government agencies, universities and other education facilities, research organisations, businesses and the general community.

To complement the release of NSW in Focus, ABS NSW aim to conduct free seminars in late June/early July highlighting some of the statistical stories presented in this year's publication.

We are interested in your feedback on NSW in Focus. Please take a few minutes to fill in the feedback form by clicking 'Have Your Say' on the Summary page of the publication. Your responses will then contribute to improving products and services in the future.

To register interest in the seminars, or for further information contact Sarah Proudford on (02) 9268 4855, or email nsw.statistics@abs.gov.au.

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MoU - ABS AND NSW GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



In early March, Australian Statistician Brian Pink and Robyn Kruk, CEO of NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** which specifies the working arrangements, principles and goals of a renewed working relationship. A key goal to which both parties are strongly committed is increasing the statistical capability within NSW Government.

This MoU updates the 1957 agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth following the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*. Over the last 50 years the arrangements envisaged in 1957 have evolved. Agencies of the NSW Government have progressively expanded their own collection and analysis of statistics to inform policy development and delivery. The ABS has evolved in its role, progressing a "whole of State" approach to management and development of the State's statistical resources.

The development and implementation of the NSW State Plan has highlighted the integral role statistics play in evidence-based policy formulation and decision making. Recent developments at Council of Australian Governments (COAG) have also highlighted a renewed emphasis on strengthened State statistical measures, within the national context.

Since signing the MoU a number of associated goals have been advanced which will further strengthen the arrangements agreed to in the MoU. An ABS Officer, Allan McLean, has been outposted to NSW DPC to:

- Assist in developing new statistical governance arrangements
- Assist in analysis of statistical priorities recently identified by senior NSW Government officials
- Work with agencies to improve performance indicator information for the NSW State Plan.

For more information on the MoU or information regarding Outposted ABS NSW Officers, please contact Allan McLean on (02) 9268 4795 or email nsw.statistics@abs.gov.au.

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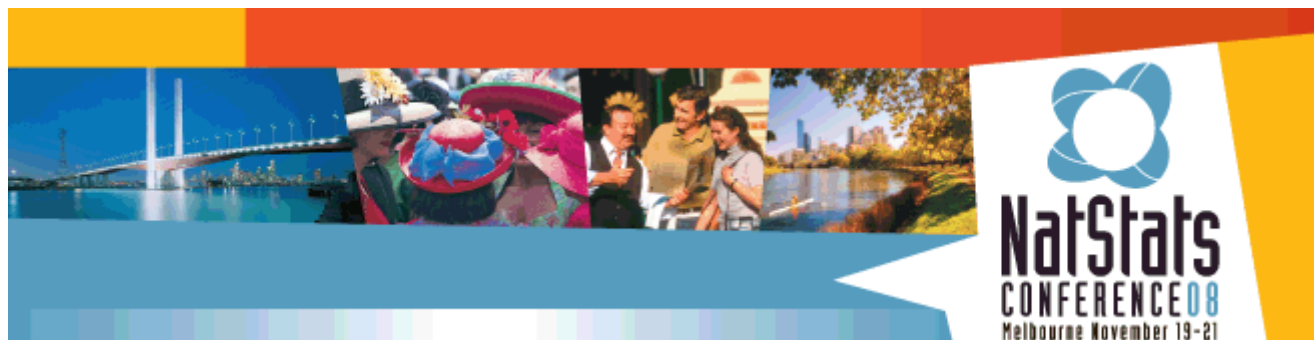
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NatStats08 Conference - Website Released

We are pleased to announce the launch of the **NatStats08 Conference** website:

www.nss.gov.au/natstats

NatStats Conference 08 will help connect users and producers of statistics from across government, the public sector and academia and provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for measuring progress in Australian society and improving statistics for the nation. The conference will be held at the Crown Promenade, Melbourne from 19 - 21 November 2008.

The broad theme for the conference will be:

"Working together for a better informed and performed Australian Society".

Professionals, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and academics will be invited to speak on topics relevant to the conference theme.

The website provides detailed information about all aspects of the conference. From the conference program to information on the Gala Dinner, the NatStats08 Conference web site is your one stop shop for all queries.

The website is updated on a regular basis to give you access to the latest program information as soon as it becomes available.

If you would like to talk about the conference program please call Mark Lound on (02) 6252 6325 or email inquiries@nss.gov.au

To register your interest in the conference please contact Conference Solutions by emailing natstats@con-sol.com

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU - ABS Officer Outpostings Available Now

Over the years, outpostings have assisted New South Wales Government agencies through the placement of professional statisticians within their organisations to advance specific priorities and projects. It has also assisted ABS in understanding the strategic working environments of State Government agencies. This has allowed the ABS to form strong working relationships with these agencies, encouraging the use of statistics as an integral tool in their decision making process.

Outposted ABS Officer John Ridley commenced a 12 month outpost at the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) in July 2007. The outpost was arranged to accomplish a program of statistical work including the preparation of the 2008 **Two Ways Together Report on Indicators**. This biennial report brings together data from relevant NSW State agencies and the ABS to provide a comprehensive picture of the condition of Aboriginal people in NSW. The publication was released on 22 April at Parliament House in Sydney.

For the remaining period of the outpostting, John will be working on assessing the demographic data available to the DAA from ABS and other sources. The data illuminates issues such as growth in the Aboriginal population, the movement of Aboriginal people into rural towns and coastal areas, as well as developing a process for accomplishing the next Indicators Report.

Outpostings are tailored to suit the needs of the agency in which ABS officers have been deployed. The outposted officer is one of the best ways the ABS can provide statistical support to NSW Government and other agencies. In recent times, outpostings have responded to an increase in demand for expertise in statistical data provided by the ABS, due to greater emphasis being placed on evidence based policy development and evaluation.

Outposted ABS NSW Officers: available to assist NSW Government agencies with statistical projects. For further information contact Allan McLean on (02) 9268 4795 or email nsw.statistics@abs.gov.au.

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IS LIFE IN AUSTRALIA GETTING BETTER?

The ABS released the 2008 edition of **Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators** (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001) in April. This publication is designed to help Australians assess how our society, economy and environment are progressing. The release includes **state/territory spreadsheets**, to show the relative contribution of each state/territory to the national indicators.

The publication shows that:

- We're living longer. A boy born in 2006 could expect to live to 79 (three years longer than a boy born in 1996) while a girl could expect to reach 83 (two years longer than a girl born in 1996).
- We're wealthier. Australia's real net worth (i.e. adjusted to remove the effects of price change) per person rose at an average rate of 0.9% per year between June 1997 and June 2007.
- Crime rates varied. There was a small increase in the rate of people who had experienced certain types of 'personal crime' (assault, sexual assault or robbery) between 1998 and 2005, from 4.8% to 5.3%. However, the rate of selected household crimes (break-ins and car theft) fell from 9.0% to 6.2% over the same period.
- There's mixed news on the environment. The data suggests some decline in Australia's biodiversity, partly captured in a rise in the number of threatened bird and mammal species (up 14% between 2000 and 2007). On the other hand, air quality is generally good and the rate of land clearing has declined slightly.

In New South Wales:

- Life expectancy is similar to the figures for Australia as a whole.
- About 61% of 25-64 year olds in NSW had a non-school qualification (e.g. a degree, diploma or certificate) in 2007, up from 47% in 1997.
- The average net worth of households in NSW was about \$632,000 in 2005-06, compared with \$563,000 for Australian households.

For further information regarding this publication, contact the National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) on 1300 135 070 or Josie Barac in Canberra on (02) 6252 5414.



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NSW DEMOGRAPHY UPDATE

Latest snapshot of NSW

The NSW population at 30 June 2007 was 6,889,100 people, an increase of 71,900 people (1.1%) over the previous 12 months. In 2006–07, there were 90,200 births in NSW and 45,900 deaths, resulting in a natural increase of 44,300. NSW also recorded a net overseas migration gain of 54,900 people and a net interstate migration loss of 27,300 people.

*For the latest quarterly information on these and other key demographic indicators see **Australian Demographic Statistics** (cat. no. 3101.0).*

Population change in NSW's Local Government Areas (LGAs)

The latest population estimates for NSW LGAs are available in **Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–07** (cat. no. 3218.0), released on 31 March.

The NSW population grew by 1.1% in 2006–07. By region, the Sydney Statistical District (SD) grew by 1.2%, with all 43 Sydney LGAs recording population growth. Outside of the Sydney SD, NSW's coastal LGAs combined grew by 1.0% and inland LGAs recorded a growth rate of 0.6%.

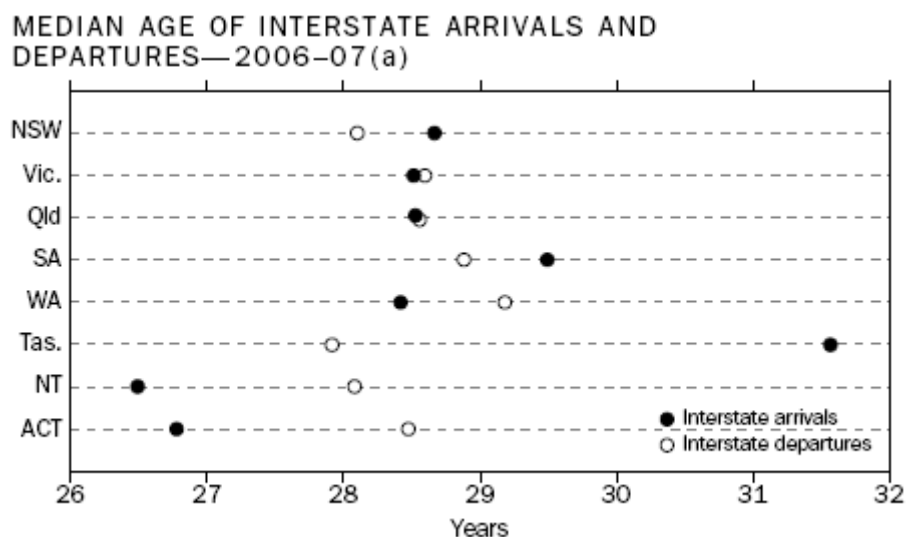
For 2006–07, the five fastest growing LGAs in NSW were spread throughout the state. In the Sydney SD, the central west LGA of Auburn (A) (4.2%) recorded the state's fastest growth and nearby Strathfield (A) (2.9%) was also in the top five. The remaining fastest growing LGAs in NSW were in regional areas. These were Palerang (A) (3.9%), adjacent to the Australian Capital Territory, Murray (A) (3.6%) located in the state's south-west on the Victorian border, and Maitland (C) (2.7%) to the north-west of Newcastle.

*For further information on regional populations see **Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–07** (cat. no. 3218.0).*

Migration

NSW recorded a net overseas migration gain of 54,900 people for 2006–07. During the same period, NSW recorded a net interstate migration loss of 27,300 people comprising 81,100 arrivals and 108,400 departures. Arrivals were primarily from Queensland (33,500) and Victoria (20,800). Similarly, departures were mainly to Queensland (52,200) and Victoria (23,500).

In 2006–07, the median age of all interstate movers within Australia was 28.5 years. For NSW, interstate departures had a median age of 28.1 years, younger than the median age of 28.7 years recorded for arrivals. Only South Australia and Tasmania experienced a similar trend, with interstate departures being younger than arrivals.



(a) Estimates for 2006-07 are preliminary

The latest release of *Migration, Australia* also includes the first estimates for net overseas migration based on the improved methodology introduced in 2007. As a result, there is a break in time series for net overseas migration figures from the 2006–07 financial year onwards. The publication discusses the improved method and issues related to it, including a time series based on the new methodology from December quarter 2003 onwards to highlight the impact of this change.

For detailed annual information on all aspects of migration see **Migration, Australia, 2006–07** (cat. no. 3412.0). For the latest monthly information on overseas migration see **Overseas Arrivals and Departures, March 2008** (cat. no. 3401.0).

Population Concepts: Who's in, who's out?

The Information Paper: *Population Concepts, Australia 2008* was released on 12 March. This paper will be of interest to those wanting to gain a better understanding of who is included in different estimates or counts of the population produced by the ABS. The paper also discusses key population concepts and identifies the measurement issues associated with them. Population concepts covered include: Population present, Usually resident population, Legal population, Economic population, Working population, and Service population.

For further information see Information Paper: Population Concepts, Australia 2008 (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006).

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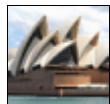
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ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE - INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

After intensive consultation with government arts agencies, peak bodies, community arts networks, city councils, regional bodies and researchers across Australia, the **Information Paper: Arts and Cultural Heritage - An Information Development Plan, 2008** (cat. no. 4915.0.55.002) was released on 14 March. This paper is available for download free of charge from the ABS website.

Outlined in the Information Development Plan (IDP) is an agreed set of priority policy research questions. The plan assesses current data sources and research work relevant to each question and where possible identifies actions or directions for further research. The ABS and the Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group (CMCSWG) will be keen to look for opportunities to work collaboratively with other agencies to address identified research needs.

The IDP will help the ABS and CMCSWG ensure that their future work programs are relevant and will contribute to the development and monitoring of government policies and programs. It is also envisaged that the IDP will assist other research and funding bodies to develop their projects and directions. In this way, we hope to better address the needs of people and organisations in the Arts and Cultural Heritage fields and produce flow-on benefits for the public.

To help progress some of the research directions identified in the IDP, CMCSWG plans to hold a **Research Symposium** later this year. The aim is to bring together a diverse group of people who have demonstrated expertise in research and data analysis in the fields of Arts and Cultural Heritage, and who are likely to be able to contribute to actively pursuing research priorities of interest to government.

The IDP will be subject to regular review to identify changes in policy priorities and data needs.

If you have any questions about the IDP, or would like to be involved in the Research Symposium please contact Jenny Dobak on (08) 8237 7317 or email nccrs@abs.gov.au.

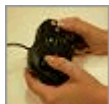
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PC, MAC OR CONSOLE? - DIGITAL GAME DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA

The First Issue of **Digital Game Development Services, Australia, 2006-07** (cat. no. 8515.0) was released on 8 April. This collection, conducted in respect of the 2006-07 financial year, provides measures of the performance, structure and activity of digital game development businesses operating in Australia. It includes aspects such as the composition of income earned, details of expenses incurred and the characteristics of the workforce. A state/territory dimension is also presented.

At the end of June 2007, there were 45 businesses in Australia involved in the provision of digital game development services. These businesses employed over 1,400 people and generated a total income of \$136.9m which represented an average of \$3m per business. Income from the provision of game development services accounted for 85.4% (\$116.9m) of total income. Income from the provision of game development services received from non-resident businesses accounted for 79.1% (\$108.3m) of total income.

Games developed for console formats (e.g. PS2, PS3, Xbox, Wii) accounted for nearly three-quarters (71.1% or \$83.2 million) of game development services income. Games developed for PC and Mac formats accounted for 14.6% (\$17.1 million).

Businesses with a head office situated in NSW accounted for 17.8% (eight) of all businesses, 8.5% (\$11.6m) of total income and 7.2% (103 people) of employment.

Employment:

- There were 1,431 people employed in game development services in Australia at the end of June 2007.
- The majority (90% or 1,227 people) were male.
- Artists and animators (491 people or 34%) and programmers (417 people or 29%) represented nearly two-thirds (64%) of total employment.
- There were 87 non-residents working in the industry at the end of June 2007.

For further details, contact Sophie Vassiliou on (03) 9615 7442 or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

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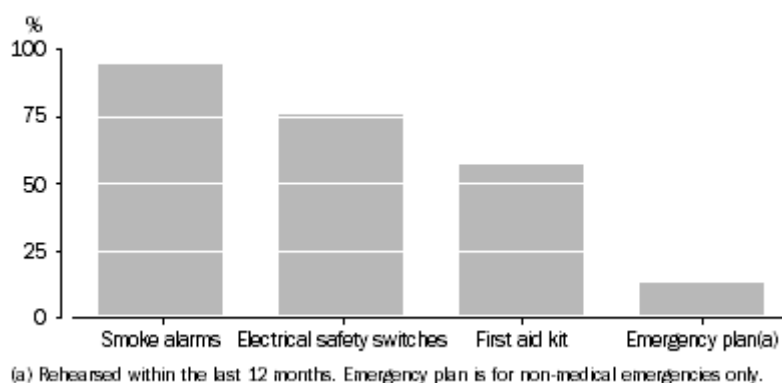
HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

The first issue of **Household Preparedness for Emergencies, NSW, Vic., Qld and ACT, October 2007** (cat. no. 4818.0.55.001) was released on 6 June. The survey examined the steps households had taken in preparing for emergencies. Where households had experienced a recent emergency (in the last 2 years) the survey investigated how they responded during the emergency and whether any changes were made to ensure better preparedness in the future.

Some NSW highlights include:

- The most common safety precaution that households had taken was to have smoke alarms or detectors installed in their homes. In NSW 94% of homes had a smoke alarm installed. This reflects legislation and building codes in NSW, it is (and was at the time of the survey) mandatory for all homes, new and old, to have smoke alarms installed.
- Electrical safety switches or circuit breakers were the second most common safety precaution. These were present in over three quarters of homes in NSW (76%). It is (and was at the time of the survey) mandatory to have safety switches installed in new houses and those undergoing renovations or rewiring work in NSW.
- A written or rehearsed emergency plan was the least common safety precaution, implemented in 13% of NSW households.

PRESENCE OF SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, NSW, Household estimates—
October 2007

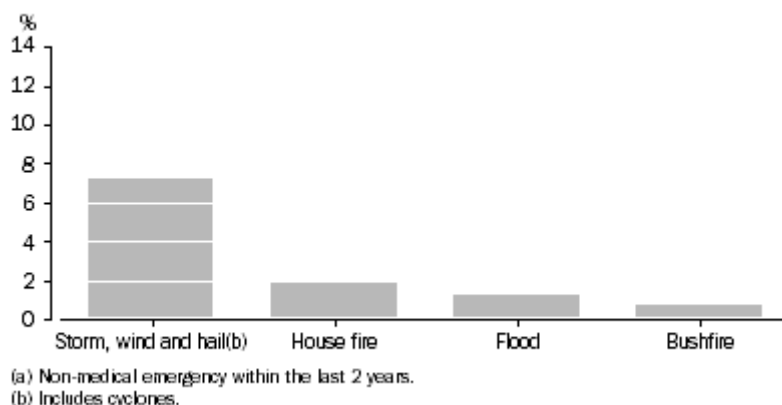


- Over half the households in Sydney (54%) had a portable first aid kit. In comparison, the balance of NSW reported a higher proportion of homes with a portable first aid kit (63%).
- In NSW, over a third of all households (36%) did not keep emergency phone numbers in a location for ease of use.
- Of the NSW households with a perceived risk of bushfire, 205,100 (41%) had an emergency

plan.

- Of the NSW households with a perceived risk of flooding, 80,200 (37%) had an emergency plan.
- In the two years prior to October 2007, 12% (309,200) of NSW households experienced an emergency. The most common type of emergency experienced was storm, wind or hail by 192,700 (7%) of NSW households.

MOST RECENT EMERGENCY(a), NSW, Household estimates—October 2007



The publication's entire content is available for free on the [ABS website](#) in Excel Data Cube format. For further information contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

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WHAT DO MUSEUMS, PUBS, CAFES AND CHILDCARE HAVE IN COMMON?

Update on 2008-09 Service Industries Surveys

The ABS is planning to conduct a survey of community services industries in respect of 2008-09 financial year, covering child care, accommodation for the aged, and other residential and non-residential care in both the government and non-government sectors. The Goods and Services National Statistics Centre (GSNSC) has commenced consultation with stakeholders in late 2007 and this will continue up until mid 2008.

The purpose of consultation is to develop a common understanding between the ABS and key clients and stakeholders for each survey. This process aims to identify and prioritise the content, accuracy, scope, and significant issues that could impact on the survey development, implementation or output.

Due to financial constraints, the ABS will not be conducting the previously advertised surveys of Pubs, Taverns and Bars, Clubs (Hospitality), and Public Libraries and Archives during the 2007-08 financial year. The ABS has informed the clients, who contributed to the development of these surveys, of this decision.

In respect of public libraries, archives, and museums surveys, the ABS consulted the major clients and stakeholders requesting input into the decision making process. The final outcome of this process was to cease the public libraries and archives survey as it is feasible to access data for this collection through administrative sources.

The GSNSC will also be undertaking a complete industry statistics review in the 2008-09 financial year. The review will be conducted from the perspective of users / clients as well as from a statistical need perspective. This review will facilitate better understanding of client requirements including the priorities and the uses of the data.

If you would like to contribute to the development of the Community Services Survey or require further information on any of the above please contact Melanie Taylor, Director, GSNSC on (02) 6252 7495 or email service.industries.program@abs.gov.au.

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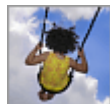
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SURVEYING THE FIELD

Defining Sport and Exercise in Australia

In February, the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics (NCCRS) released a **Discussion Paper: Defining Sport and Exercise, a Conceptual Model, 2008** (cat no. 4149.0).

If you have ever contemplated the question "What is sport?" or "What is exercise?" then this paper will be of interest to you. The discussion paper presents definitions of sport, exercise and physical recreation. It also examines the relationship between these overlapping concepts and brings them together in a conceptual model. The model outlines what activities may be considered in scope for research on exercise, physical recreation and sport.

As a precursor to the development of this conceptual model, an analysis of sports and physical activity surveys was undertaken to review 30 surveys conducted at the national, state or territory level. This earlier analysis informed the development of the conceptual model.

The aim of developing a conceptual model for sport and exercise is to aid interpretation and future development of surveys in this field. However, even when concepts are well defined, there can still be practical difficulties in designing a survey to accurately measure the concepts, and this is also briefly discussed in the paper.

The model is presented in draft form in order to provide the opportunity for feedback and comment. The ABS would be particularly keen to hear feedback from specialists working in the field of sport and physical activity policy, research or measurement.

If you have any comments or wish to discuss the paper with us, please contact Mike Stratton (08) 8237 7399 or Megan Warner (08) 8237 7387 in the Sport Statistics Unit of NCCRS. Alternatively, comments and feedback may be emailed to nccrs@abs.gov.au.

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